

## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Naval Reserve Force**

These questions and answers have been prepared by the Navy Recruiting Command. They are based on questions most asked of Naval Reserve Recruiters by naval personnel and other service veterans who are considering joining the Naval Reserve as they leave active duty service. Answers are hyper-linked to the questions. For more information on the U.S. Navy, visit the FAQ page at [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil).

### **Q. What is the Naval Reserve?**

The Naval Reserve is a force of highly trained men and women available to meet the expanded needs of the regular Navy. Together, the Navy and the Naval Reserve employ specialists in many skills, working together for national security and to support the nation's interests around the world.

### **Q. How do I find out how to become a Naval Reservist and what's involved?**

The best answer is to visit the Naval Reserve Recruiting Home Page on the World Wide Web. You can do that right now...

Naval Reserve Recruiting Command, <http://www.cnrrc.com/>

Or, you may contact:

Commander, Naval Reserve Recruiting Command

4400 Dauphine Street, Bldg. 601-4A

New Orleans, LA 70146-5095

1-800-872-8767

or E-mail: Naval Reserve Recruiting, [harmelin@cnrrc.com](mailto:harmelin@cnrrc.com)

### **Q. How much time does the Naval Reserve require of a person?**

A Naval Reservist usually attends training sessions with a Reserve unit one weekend a month. Once a year the Reservist is required to go on annual training (AT) for about two weeks. Depending on the Reservist's specialty, this duty could take place in the U.S. or an overseas location, at shore or at sea.

### **Q. What is the length of enlistment in the Naval Reserve?**

If enlisting in a permanent paygrade, enlistment is for two, three, four, five, six or eight years. If enlisting in a temporary paygrade, the length is for three, four, five, six or eight years. A Naval Reserve contract can be extended by 12-month periods, not to exceed 48 months. Length of enlistment applies to veterans of the Navy and all other services.

### **Q. What are the obligations while in the Naval Reserve?**

A Reservist must attend at least 90% of assigned training sessions and at least 12 days of AT each year to remain a satisfactory drilling and paid Reservist.

### **Q. What is the starting pay?**

Pay and allowances are determined by the same pay scale used by active duty Navy personnel. Reservists can earn four days of base pay for attending training sessions one weekend a month. They also receive full pay and allowances for meals and housing during the two weeks of AT each year.

**Q. How frequent are pay raises and advancement opportunities?**

Reservists receive all general military increases in pay. Pay is based on rate and time in service. Advancement opportunities in the Naval Reserve are similar to those in the regular Navy. Advancement depends on the needs of the Navy, the Reservist's ability and time in grade, plus a passing mark on the advancement test. Training courses are available to help Reservists get ahead faster.

**Q. Can veterans re-enlist with their old paygrades?**

Yes. Qualified Navy veterans who have been out of the service four years or less can re-enlist in the same paygrade held at the time of discharge. Those out of the Navy more than four years, but less than 10, may be temporarily advanced to the paygrade held at the time of discharge. Those granted temporary advancement must complete all personnel advancement requirements (PARs) for the temporary rate to qualify for permanent advancement to the former paygrade.

**Q. Can other service veterans join the Naval Reserve?**

Yes. Selected qualified veterans from other services, if enlisting within four years of discharge, can join the Naval Reserve in the same paygrade as when discharged. If they join within four to six years, they will enter one paygrade less than when discharged; within six to eight years, two paygrades less than when discharged.

**Q. Can Reservists change their ratings?**

Yes. A request for change of rating will be considered if the new rating is on the current navy open ratings list. Completion of required correspondence courses for the new rating and successful completion of a Navy-wide examination are required to change a rating. Reservists may also request a direct conversion to another rating without an examination, if they're qualified for that rating.

**Q. Are advanced training and schooling available?**

Yes. If a Reservist qualifies for training in a critical Navy rating, he or she should apply for a course at the proper specialized Navy technical training school. Advanced technical training schools are available to help Reservists improve their chances for promotion and develop their full potential. Reservists who take advantage of attending specialized Navy technical schools can move up quickly by preparing themselves for a meaningful job and a secure future in the high-tech world of tomorrow.

**Q. Are programs available leading to a Naval Reserve commission?**

Enlisted Reservists can apply for the Reserve Limited Duty Officer Program or, if qualified, apply for a direct commission.

**Q. What happens if a change in civilian employment requires relocation?**

The Naval Reserve is one of the few part-time jobs available almost anywhere. Naval Reserve training activities are located throughout the United States and overseas. When relocating to another area, Reservists are allowed up to 30 days to contact a Reserve Unit in the new area. The 30 days is grace period during which the Reservist does not have to drill. The missed drill, however, must be made up at a later date.

**Q. Where do Naval Reservists train?**

Training sessions are usually held at the nearest Naval Reserve Center or Naval Air Reserve activity. Two-day weekend training can also be performed aboard ships, at naval shore and air bases or at any central training sites. The two weeks of annual training can take place virtually anywhere in the world with air squadron, surface command or staff requirements.

**Q. Do civilian employers support the Naval Reserve?**

Yes. Employers realize their Naval Reservist employee is learning the most up-to-date, high-tech methods that will help him or her develop skills to become a more effective worker and leader in the civilian work force. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is an organization dedicated to fostering a solid working relationship between employers and the Reserve components of the military.

**Q. Are veterans issued new uniforms when joining the Naval Reserve?**

A partial uniform clothing issue is given to Reservists who have been discharged more than 90 days or if they're enlisted in an advanced paygrade. Additional uniform clothing will be issued when Reservists' AT assignments last more than 30 days, if Reservists are recalled to active duty or mobilization.

**Q. Are uniform allowances given?**

Yes, under certain conditions. Uniform allowance payments for E-7s (chief petty officers) and above are automatic and are included in the monthly paycheck for those in a drill status. For Reservists below E-7, certain items of clothing issued will be replaced at government expense if they are turned in item-for-item at the time of replacement.

**Q. Do qualified Reservists get paid "with dependents" status?**

Yes, but only for AT. The pay and allowances during those 12 to 14 days are accumulated at the same rate as received by active duty Navy personnel with dependents.

**Q. Are Reservists subject to recall?**

Yes. Naval Reservists stand ready to mobilize for our country's defense whenever needed. Circumstances under which mobilization may occur are spelled out by federal law.

**Q. Can Reservists deduct Reserve duty costs from their income tax?**

The Internal Revenue Service allows Reservists to make certain deductions from federal income taxes for Naval Reserve Training. Find out about these deductions from any Internal Revenue Service office.

**Q. Are Reservists eligible for retirement pay?**

Yes. Reservists may retire after 20 years of satisfactory service. This is based on a combination of active duty time, attendance at drills, and completion of correspondence courses. However, Reservists do not start receiving retirement pay until age 60. The amount received at that age depends on the base pay of the Reservist in that grade/rank, and total active and inactive duty points earned over their period of service.

**Q. What benefits are Retired Reservists entitled to?**

When Reservists start to collect retired pay at age 60, they and their dependents retain many benefits. They may use base facilities including service clubs, armed services exchanges and commissaries, and recreation facilities. They may also be entitled to available medical care based on limitations of space and facilities.

**Q. Can retired Reservists use military air transportation?**

Yes. Retired Naval Reservists and eligible dependents (when accompanied by the retiree) may use military air transportation to travel when space on flights is available. Rules and regulations change often, so check with the nearest military air terminal for up-to-date information.

**Q. What happens if a Reservist dies before reaching age 60?**

An optional Survivors Benefit Plan provides an annuity to eligible beneficiaries of Reservists who have qualified for retired pay.

**Q. Can Reservists continue their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance?**

Yes. Under certain conditions Reservists may continue SGLI while affiliated with a Naval Reserve unit. Upon release from the unit, Reservists may elect to continue coverage for five years at no increased premium with Veterans Group Life Insurance. A Naval Reserve recruiter will have details.